

THE MUZZLED PULPIT.

A San Francisco preacher has caused something of a sensation in the city by boldly charging that the pulpit of his State is muzzled. Those who have watched the pulpit carefully during the past quarter of a century will conclude that the reverend gentleman is rather late in making his discovery.

The press of California has worn a muzzle on its mercenary nose for a long time, and why should the pulpit raise any the less objection to the muzzling?

In the olden times the church was the supreme power; a little more powerful than the king.

The Bishop dared to denounce the royal family from the pulpit, and the royal family took its gruel with becoming meekness, but of late years the church has lost its grip and the muzzle feels pleasant on its nose. Times have changed and it must accept the situation.

The church is kept up by the fashionable and wealthy class of people.

This class don't want the hell's fire and damnation doctrine thrown at them. In fact, they do not care much for any kind of preaching.

The attraction of the service is the paid singing and the music, and the sermon has to be endured with the balance of the service.

The preacher who knows where his bread and butter lies will graciously put his nose in the muzzle and be careful what he says.

His congregation is made up mostly of pious frauds, who go to church to cloak their past and present lives, and it is not natural that they want evil things denounced, as it brings up unpleasant recollections.

The preacher who imagines he is to reform his congregation makes a great mistake. They don't hire him to be reformed, and the sooner he reaches that conclusion the better.

Only a great genius in the pulpit can afford to tell the truth; he must be sufficiently a genius to have an influence beyond the pale of his own church. He must be absolutely independent of his congregation before he can preach to them unmuzzled.

The clergyman who preaches the absolute truth to his congregation would empty his church in a month.

He is their paid servant, and as his salary comes from them he should be wise enough to give them the sort of preaching they pay for.

THEIR OWN FAULT.

The members of the Minnesota Club, where Hall and Fitzsimmons were expected to fight, consider themselves greatly outraged that the authorities did not notify them several weeks ago that they would stop the fight.

If the officers of the club had simply consulted the statute books they would have seen a very plain notification that prize fighting was illegal.

It is not the business of the authorities to go about reading the statutes to people who contemplate felonies and misdemeanors. As well might a burglar complain that the State allowed him to purchase an expensive kit of tools before notifying him that the police would interfere if he attempted house breaking.

As long as the law is on the statute books it must be respected.

A case was lately tried at Douglas, Wyoming, before a jury composed wholly of women. All the parties concerned in the trial were women also. Mrs. Ingersoll who keeps the hotel at Douglas, being sued by two of her servant girls for their wages. The jury gave judgment for the girls. The trial attracted much attention, as a jury composed exclusively of women was an unusual sight. The case has been appealed.

Guitar Lessons.

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June 29, 1891.

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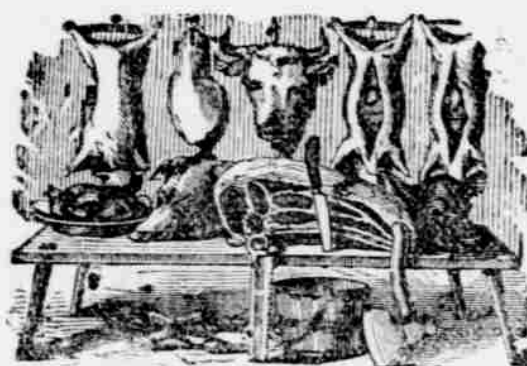
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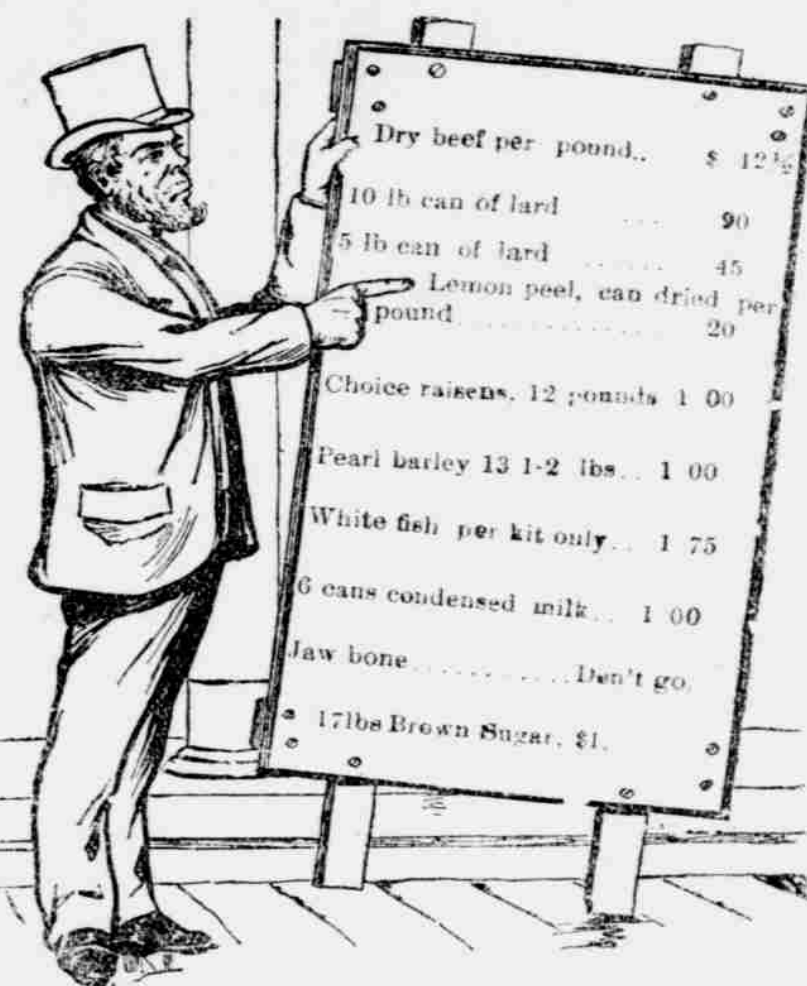
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